URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEPTON MALLET

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(including the Report of the Public Health Inspector)

FOR THE YEAR

1964

SHEPTON MALLET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

for the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

(including the report of the
Senior Public Health Inspector)
for the year ending 31st. December, 1964.

Council Offices,
Market Place,
Shepton Mallet.

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SHEPTON MALLET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS - 1964

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Medical Officer of Health

Deryck E. Clare. M.B., B.S., D.P.H., M.R.S.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector

W.L. Barnsley. M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Certificated Meat & Foods Inspector.
(Also Surveyor to the Council)

Additional Public Health Inspector

R.F. Blinkhorn, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (until April 1964).

W.R.Simpson, M.A.P.H.I. (from July 1964)

Clerical Staff

Medical Officers' Clerk - Mr. T.W. Foster

Public Health Inspectors' Clerks - Miss M. Borland.

Mr. R. Fear
(from July 1964)

URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEPTON MALLET

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1964

Tel: Shepton Mallet 2237
Wells 2643 (Residence)

Area Health Department,
U.D.C. Offices,
Market Place,
Shepton Mallet,
SOMERSET.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 1964, prepared in accordance with the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, and Ministry of Health Circular 1/65 of 11th. January.

The health of the District during the year gives reasonable cause for satisfaction, with an increased Birth Rate, lowered Still Birth Rate, no Infant Mortality for the second year running, and again no Maternal Mortality. Few infectious diseases were notified during the year, and there was little change in the main causes of death in the community except for an increase in deaths from chest diseases.

On the environmental side, as detailed by the Senior Public Health Inspector to whom I am grateful for his contribution to the Report, a start was made on a large housing scheme in the Draycott Road area and a proposed Clearance Area at Garston Street was submitted to the Ministry.

I would like to thank the Members and Officers for help and consideration received during the year, and in particular, the Senior Public Health Inspector and his staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

D. E. Clare.

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District (in acres).....	2,278
Estimated population (mid-year) 1964.....	5,600
Number of inhabited houses.....	1791
Rateable Value.....	£211,765
Product of a Penny Rate.....	£814. 12s. 1d.

MAIN VITAL STATISTIC FOR 1964

(With comparative figures for Somerset and England & Wales where available)

	M	F	Total	S.M.U.D.C. Recorded	S.M.U.D.C. Corrected	Somerset	England & Wales
BIRTHS							
LIVE BIRTHS							
Legitimate	41	40	81			8,625	(Provisional)
Illegitimate	3	3	6			529	
	44	43	87			9,154	874,148
Rate per 1,000 population (Area Births Comparability Factor 1.05).				15.5	16.3	16.86 (Corrected)	18.4
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS (per cent of total live births)				6.9		5.78	
STILL BIRTHS							
Legitimate	-	1	1				
Illegitimate	-	-	-				
Totals	-	1	1			141	14,545
Rate per 1,000 live & still births				11.35		15.17	16.4
TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS	44	44	88			9,295	888,693
DEATHS							
TOTAL DEATHS (all ages)	26	45	71			6,629	534,737
Rate per 1,000 population. (Area Deaths Comparability Factor 0.83).				12.67	10.52	10.62	11.3
INFANT DEATHS (under 1 year)							
Legitimate	-	-	-			108	
Illegitimate	-	-	-			11	
Totals	-	-	-			119	17,445
Under 4 weeks							
Legitimate	-	-	-				
Illegitimate	-	-	-				
Totals	-	-	-			82	12,106
(Under 1 week)							
Legitimate	-	-	-				
Illegitimate	-	-	-				
Totals	-	-	-			68	

INFANT MORTALITY RATES	S/MALLET U.D.C. Recorded	S/MALLET U.D.C. Corrected	Somerset	England & Wales
Total Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births.	-		13.00	20.0
Legitimate Infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births. ...	-		12.52	
Illegitimate Infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	-		20.79	
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATES (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births).	-		8.96	13.8
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births).	-		7.43	
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Still births & deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births).	11.35		22.49	28.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion).				
Number of Deaths, ...	-		1	226
Rate per 1,000 total live & still births.	-		0.11	0.25

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Disease	Total cases notified
WHOOPING COUGH.....	12
MEASLES.....	19
TUBERCULOSIS (Lungs).....	1
SONNE DYSENTERY.....	10
Total	42

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1964

(As given by the Registrar-General)

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex.	Total all Ages.	Under 4 Wks.	4 wks & under 1 yr.	Age in Years 1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75& upward
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus.	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm Breast.	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus.	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	M	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	3
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Coronary Disease Angina.	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	3
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1
Hypertension with Heart Disease.	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Heart Disease.	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	7
Other Circulatory Disease.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Bronchitis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea.	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations.	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases.	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents.	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Accidents.	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	26	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	3	7	12
	F	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	13	24

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS

There were no Food Poisoning Notifications during the year.

NOTES ON VITAL STATISICS FOR 1964

(The figures are in general too small for much importance to be attached to them but certain broad statements can be made)

Population

The General Register Office estimate of the mid-year population is seen to be actually 20 less than in 1963. The Registrar General states that this is because the mid-1964 estimates have been corrected to take account of the final results of the 1961 Census, and an unexpected fall in an area's estimate compared with that for mid-1963 indicates that the estimates for 1961 to 1963 were probably too high.

Births

Live Births this year totalled 13 more than in 1963, with a corresponding rise in the Recorded Birth Rate. When this figure is augumented by the Area Births Comparability Factor it will be seen that the Corrected Birth Rate approximates the County rate but is still below the National figure.

Still Births there was only 1 Still Birth compared with 4 in the previous year and the Still Birth Rate was significantly better than the County and National rates.

Deaths

Deaths at all ages - totalled 71, as in 1963, and the Corrected Death Rate compares favourably with the rates of the County and England & Wales.

Infant Mortality - there were again no deaths in children under 1 year.

Perinatal Mortality Rate - this was once again the same as the Still Birth Rate, and half that of the County or National figures.

Maternal Mortality - was again Nil.

Causes of Death in 1964

Diseases of the Cardio-Vascular System - caused the greatest number of deaths, as in 1963, but were 6 less than in that year. Coronary and Other Heart Diseases accounted for 26 deaths and Vascular Diseases of the Nervous System for 10.

Cancers of various sites - caused 10 deaths as against 9 in the previous year, and of these Lymphatic and Other Malignant Neoplasms accounted for 7.

Deaths from Respiratory Disease - rose to 10 as against 5 in 1963, and Bronchitis accounted for 6 of these.

Accidental Deaths - totalled one more than in 1963 but only one death was connected with a motor vehicle.

Notifiable Diseases

Measles and other childhood diseases assumed negligible proportions compared with the year before.

Sonne Dysentery appeared in the autumn in a local hospital for mentally sub-normal girls but thanks to the energetic precautions taken there this did not spread to the outside community.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SEC.47) & AMENDMENT ACT,1951

No cases occurred requiring action under the provisions of these Acts, but regular visits were made to elderly persons living in borderline conditions.

VACCINATIONS AND INOCULATIONS

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

(1) Primary Courses. Number of children in the District who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the year ended 31.12.64.

Children born in the years:-							
1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1955-59	1950-54	TOTAL
8	31	9	-	1	3	3	55

(2) Reinforcing Injections

Children receiving reinforcing injections in the year ended 31.12.64.

-	-	1	7	1	74	49	132

TETANUS IMMUNISATION

(1) Primary Courses. Number of children in District who completed a full course of primary immunisation in year ended 31.12.64.

73	64	4	-	1	1	-	143

(2) Reinforcing Injections. Children receiving reinforcing injections in year ended 31.12.64.

-	-	1	7	1	74	49	132

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

Number of children in District who completed a primary course of Pertussis vaccine (singly or in combination) in year ended 31.12.64.

4	20	9	-	1	2	2	38

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

(1) Primary Course. Number of persons in District who received a course of primary vaccination (two injections of Salk vaccine, three injections of quadruple vaccine or three doses of Oral vaccine) during the year 1964.

Children born 1964		Children born 1963		Children born 1962		Children born 1943-61		Young Persons born 1933-42		Persons under 40 yrs of age & priority Groups.	
Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral
-	1	-	33	-	19	-	15	-	1	-	4

(2) Reinforcements, 1964

Number of persons (all groups) who rec'd a 3rd Salk Injn. or 4th injn. of quadruple vacc.	Number of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who rec'd a 4th Salk injn. or 5th injn. of quadruple vacc.	Number of persons (all groups) who rec'd a reinforcing dose of Oral vacc. following 2 Salk injns.	Number of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who rec'd a dose of Oral Vacc. after 3 Salk injns. or 3 Oral doses or 2 Salk injns. plus 2 Oral doses.
-	-	4	63

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

Number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) in the District in year 1964.

0-3 mths	4-6 mths	7-9 mths	10-12 mths	1 year		2-4 years		5-14 yrs		15 or over	
P	P	P	P	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
-	2	-	-	14	-	-	-	1	5	1	7

P = Primary vaccination. R = Re-vaccination

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1964

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1964. Perhaps the most notable event lay in the field of housing with a start being made on the construction of 141 flats at Draycott. The topography of this site presented very great difficulties which were only overcome by the closest co-operation between all concerned but, it is believed, the development will prove to be most distinctive and one of which the Council and the townspeople can be justifiably proud.

Inspections of houses in Garston Street were completed and the Garston Street Clearance was made and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for confirmation.

The year also saw the completion of the Ridgeway Estate, this final phase being designed on an open lay-out. At the sewage works additional electrical equipment was installed permitting of greater flexibility in operation and, at the end of the year work was in progress on further automation of pumps,

During the year two important Acts came into operation namely the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 and the Housing Act, 1964, the former bringing, for the first time, standards for the accommodation of employees in offices and shops and requiring registration of all such premises where persons other than direct relatives are employed. The Housing Act, 1964, among other matters, confers duties and powers on local authorities to compel the carrying out of works for the improvement of dwellings.

There were some staff changes, Mr. F. Blinkhorn relinquishing his appointment as Deputy Surveyor & Public Health Inspector to take up an appointment with the Dorchester Rural District Council. Mr. W.R. Simpson took up the position of Deputy Surveyor and Public Health Inspector on 1st. July, 1964.

The Council recognised the need for additional clerical assistance and Mr. R. Fear commenced duties as a Junior Clerk on 13th July, 1964.

My thanks are due to all members of the Staff of the Department for their willing assistance during an extremely busy year and to the Medical Officer of Health for his co-operation in all spheres. I would also thank the Members and Officers of the Council for their consideration and help.

Your obedient servant,

W. L. BARNSLEY.

Senior Public Health Inspector.

1. WATER SUPPLY

The public supply is operated by the Bristol Waterworks Company. The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action and two samples from the supply were submitted for qualititive examination during the year, both proving satisfactory. Shortage occurred during the latter part of the year and the Company imposed restrictions on the use of hose pipes etc. Investigations showed that a spring supply to 6 houses in the district was unsatisfactory. Analysis led to the conclusion that the surface springs were being fouled by animals and the owner was requested to carry out protective head-works. These works are to be carried out in 1965.

The distribution of water supplies in the district is, so far as can be ascertained, as follows:-

(a) Mains supplies: 1785 Population: 5602

(b) Houses supplied by the wells or springs: 6

Population: 18

Natural Fluoride Content of water.

Fluoride in p.p.m.	Windsor Hill)	Nil
	Yelling Mill)	

2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Most of the premises in the Urban District are connected to the public sewers discharging to biological treatment works at Darshill, but approximately 70 properties in outlying parts of the area are not connected to the main drainage system.

The construction of additional biological filters was completed during the year and electrical equipment was installed which permits of greater flexibility in operation of the works. Recirculation, alternating double filtration or gravity filtration can now be operated. The improvement in the quality of effluent has been maintained and regular inspections of the river downstream of the works have shown that there was no cause for complaint and none were received.

Forty eight samples of sewage were taken during the year as follows:-

Trade Effluent.....	12
Crude Sewage	12
Final Effluent	24

Difficulties have again been experienced in connection with the drying of sludge and it seems inevitable that additional drying areas will be required in the forseeable future.

During the latter part of the year, a section of the main trunk sewer collapsed and it was found that several pipes had been fractured by heavy root growth.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The estimated total number of water closets in the district on the 31st. December, 1964 was 2050 and although it has not been possible to carry out a factual survey there are approximately 10 pail closets in the district.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING

The weekly collection of domestic refuse has been maintained without an increase in the number of operators engaged on this work. The number of new houses built is very nearly balanced by the number demolished but regard must be paid to the fact that dustbins from the new houses must be carried over a considerably longer distance. With this factor in mind if the quickening pace of development continues then additional labour will be required or alternatively the paper sack system of domestic storage must be considered. It is hoped that such a system will be adopted at the Draycott development.

The salvage of waste paper etc. continued throughout the year in a modified form the quantity baled being strictly governed by the quota imposed by the pulp mills.

5. CAMPING SITES

There are no camping sites in the district.

6. SWIMMING BATHS

There is one public swimming pool at Eastfield in the Urban District owned by the Council. The water is continually circulated, filtered and chlorinated and its temperature is maintained at about 70°F. Chlorination is affected by a Wallace and Tiernan Automatic Chlorinator and the purification plant is of the Horsley Piggott horizontal type.

Swimming Baths cont...

The turnover period is estimated to be 12 hours the pool being filled at the beginning of the season from the mains of the Bristol Waterworks Company.

Samples are taken twice daily to determine the pH value of the water and the residual chlorine reading.

There are two privately owned pools in the district.

7. HOUSING

(a) Number of dwellings owned by the Local Authority.... 476

Total number of permanent dwellings in the District. 1791

The repair and maintenance of the council owned houses is carried out by direct labour. The maintenance staff, consisting of plumber, mason and joiner should in my view be increased by the addition of two painters - this would facilitate the execution of a painting programme and would undoubtedly reduce, in the long run, the amount of repairs to be executed.

(b) Unfit properties. During the year inspections of 50 houses in Garston Street were completed and a Clearance Order was submitted to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government for confirmation. The following list indicates the action taken with regard to unfit properties:-

Number of houses included in clearance area (Garston St.) 50

Number of individually unfit houses represented..... 8

Undertakings not to re-let entered into..... 2

Houses demolished or closed..... 17

Demolition orders made..... 1

Closing orders made..... 2

(c) New Buildings.

(1) Houses erected during the year

Local Authority..... 13

Private enterprise... 17

(2) Houses in course of erection at the year end

Local Authority.....162

Private enterprise... 4

Housing cont..

(3) Number of houses erected from 1.4.45 - 31.12.64

Local Authority 357

Private enterprise... 201

(d) Redevelopment. Discussions concerning the development of part of Draycott and Cowl Street continued throughout the year. The site, because of the differences in levels, is not an easy one to develop but the outcome of these discussions was the production of a scheme acceptable to the Council and the Ministry of Housing & Local Government. 141 units of accommodation are to be provided consisting of flats and maisonettes. Details for the completion of the Ridgeway Estate by the erection of 34 houses were also approved and a start is to be made on both projects in 1964.

8. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Seven applications for standard grants and four applications for discretionary grants were approved.

9. FOOD

(a) Food Hygiene Regulations 1955. All food establishments were inspected during the year and in two instances standards of hygiene were improved by informal action. Action was necessary in the case of a cafe where the standard of hygiene was low and the conditions were improved by informal action.

(b) Unsound Food. The following food was surrendered voluntarily as unfit for human consumption:-

40 tins of various foods	weight - 209 lbs.
Other foods	weight - 29 lbs.

(c) Milk

(1) Number of registered distributors.....5

(2) Number of registered dairy premises(exlc.farms)...5

The sampling of milk is carried out by the Somerset County Council.

(d) Icecream

(1) Number of premises registered for retailing.....19

Icecream cont..

(2) Number of premises registered for manufacture..Nil

No samples were taken for bacteriological examination. In all cases supplies are obtained from well known manufacturers either wrapped or in cartons.

(e) SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There are none in operation in the district.

10. FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,& 6 are to be enforced * by Local Authorities	22	8	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	20	13	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	42	21	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found - Nil

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 cont...

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list reqd. by Sec.110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel: Making etc.	16	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning & washing	-	-	-	-	-	-

11. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action was necessary during the year.

KNACKERS YARDS

There are none in the district.

Deryck E. Clare, M.B.,B.S., D.P.H., M.R.S.H.,
(Medical Officer of Health)

W.L. Barnsley, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
(Senior Public Health Inspector).